

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 L-03 EB-08 SS-15 COME-00

PA-02 ICAE-00 TRSE-00 /046 W

-----011579 302041Z /66

R 300016Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0827

UNCLAS MANILA 15139

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, SHUM, RP

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL LAW ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE -
ROMULO ON THE NIEO

1. GENERAL ROMULO IN HIS LUNCHEON ADDRESS TO THE INTERNATIONAL LAW ASSOCIATION ON AUGUST 28 ELABORATED ON THE THEME OF ECONOMIC HUMAN RIGHTS WHICH PRESIDENT MARCOS STRESSED IN HIS OPENING ADDRESS. ROMULO URGED THE INTERNATIONAL LAW ASSOCIATION TO PLACE THE QUESTION OF PROGRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC LAW, THAT IS, EMBODYING THE NIEO, HIGHER ON ITS AGENDA OF CRITICAL PROBLEMS. HE APPEALED "TO INTERNATIONAL CONSCIENCE AND TO BASIC RULES OF JUSTICE AND EQUITY" AS FOLLOWS:

- BEGIN QUOTE: THERE ARE MANY INEQUITIES IN THE PRESENT ECONOMIC SYSTEM TO WHICH WE SHOULD ADDRESS OURSELVES. AT THIS VERY MOMENT, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL STABILITY IS BEING SERIOUSLY THREATENED BY FORCES GENERATED BY THE EVER-WIDENING CHASM BETWEEN THE DEVELOPED AND THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. PRESENT ESTIMATES SHOW THAT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RICH AND POOR NATIONS STANDS AT MORE THAN \$8,000 PER CAPITA. THE POOR COUNTRIES WHOSE PEOPLES CONSTITUTE 70 PER CENT OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION WANT, NOT WITHOUT REASON, MORE THAN THEIR CURRENT 11 PER CENT OF ITS TOTAL PRODUCTIVE INCOME. THEY ALSO CANNOT ACCEPT

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THAT THE EXPORTS OF MANUFACTURERS FROM INDUSTRIALIZED TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WERE WORTH ABOUT US\$125 BILLION IN 1975, BUT THE REVERSE FLOW WAS ONLY \$26 BILLION. FOR THE PAST 25 YEARS, THE INCOME PER CAPITA IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ROSE FROM \$210 TO \$520, WHILE THAT OF THE ADVANCED INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES STOOD AT AN AVERAGE OF \$6,114. IN MANY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, MILLIONS OF PEO-

PLE LIVE ON INCOMES AVERAGING \$70 ANNUALLY, AND FOR TWO-THIRDS OF MANKIND, THE INCREASE IN PER CAPITA INCOME IN REAL TERMS HAS BEEN LESS THAN \$1 FOR THE LAST 20 YEARS. THESE FIGURES ARE NOT MINE; THEY ARE WORLD BANK STATISTICS.

- THERE MUST BE SOMETHING TERRIBLY WRONG IN A GLOBAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM THAT SPAWNS THESE GRIM STATISTICS. DIRE WARNINGS HAVE BEEN ISSUED TO THE EFFECT THAT THE GREATEST DANGER OF VIOLENCE IN THE WORLD IS BETWEEN THE HAVES AND THE HAVE-NOTS. THE NEXT WORLD CONFLAGRATION, IT HAS BEEN SAID, WILL NOT BE A QUESTION OF WHAT IS RIGHT, BUT WHAT IS LEFT. END QUOTE.

2. HE CONCLUDED, THUSLY:

- BEGIN QUOTE: IT IS OUR CONVICTION THAT THERE IS AN URGENT NEED FOR THE FORMULATION OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC LAW IN CLEAR, EFFECTIVE, JUST AND EQUITABLE TERMS. ITS NORMS AND PRINCIPLES MUST BE CLEAR IN ORDER TO LEAVE NO ROOM FOR CONSTRUCTION OR MISINTERPRETATION; EFFECTIVE, IN ORDER TO SERVE THE ENDS OF INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY AND IMPROVE THE HUMAN CONDITIONS PARTICULARLY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES; JUST, IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE WEAK AND PROVIDE SANCTIONS TO THE POWERFUL IN THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE FORMER; AND EQUITABLE, IN ORDER NOT ONLY TO PREVENT THE "UNEQUAL TREATMENT OF EQUAL CASES BUT ALSO THE UNEQUAL TREATMENT OF UNEQUAL SITUATIONS" (QUOTING FROM JAN UNCLASSIFIED

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TINBERGEN, THE RENOWNED DUTCH ECONOMIST AND NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNER). END QUOTE. MURPHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERNATIONAL LAW, PLANNING MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MANILA15139
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780354-0850
Format: TEL
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978089/aaaaahbx.tel
Line Count: 96
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: db4b9a67-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1812342
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INTERNATIONAL LAW ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE - ROMULO ON THE NIEO
TAGS: EGEN, SHUM, RP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/db4b9a67-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014